

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081573

FOR LOS TEAM

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CNO, USCINCSO,
COMUSNAVSO FROM QUITO APRIL 19:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2640

FOR UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EC US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOREAN NAVY: CONVERSATION WITH REAR
ADMIRAL VASQUEZ

REF: STATE 79712

1. ACCOMPANIED BY RADM BLOUNT, NAVATT ZINSLER AND (FLAG) LT.
LAUER, I CALLED ON RADM VASQUEZ AT 10:30 THIS MORNING TO
CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. IN ORDER TO AVOID
POSSIBLE LOSS OF FACE TO RADM VASQUEZ IN CASE HE HAD PLANNED
ANY KIND OF SPECIAL RECEPTION, I HAD INSTRUCTED NAVATT TO
TELEPHONE RADM VASQUEZ AT 8:30 THIS MORNING TO EXPLAIN
THAT THERE WOULD BE A DELAY OF APPROXIMATELY A WEEK IN
DELIVERING A REPLY FROM ADMIRAL ZUMWALT, BUT THAT WE WISHED
TO SEE HIM AT 10:30 AS SCHEDULED IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THE
REASONS FOR THE DELAY AND TO ALLOW RADM BLOUNT TO PRESENT
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HIS RESPECT. RADM VASQUEZ HAD TAKEN THIS NEWS IN

STRIDE, SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD "WHAT INSTRUCTIONS WERE" AND THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE US ON A "SOCIAL VISIT".

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF INITIAL PLEASANTRIES I TOLD THE ADMIRAL THAT, AS HE WAS AWARE FROM MY LETTER OF APRIL 10, I HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER A REPLY TO HIM FROM ADMIRAL ZUMWALT. I HAD, HOWEVER, RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS THAT THERE WOULD BE A DELAY OF APPROXIMATELY A WEEK IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO UNDERTAKE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS. I THEN TOLD THE ADMIRAL THAT I WISHED TO READ TO HIM A TRANSLATION OF MY INSTRUCTIONS (PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL) SO THAT HE WOULD KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THEY WERE. I SAID THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AT ATLANTA, THE INSTRUCTIONS HAD COME DIRECTLY FROM THE UNDER SECRETARY. I ADDED THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE, IF NECESSARY, TO TALK TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ BUT THAT, KNOWING HOW BUSY HE WAS, I WOULD INSTEAD ASK THAT RADM VASQUEZ PASS ON MY MESSAGE. I THEN READ TO THE ADMIRAL THE TRANSLATION OF PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3.

3. THE ADMIRAL REPLIED THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT BUT THAT HE WOULD INFORM HIM OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS OUR INTERNAL MATTER, THAT HE UNDERSTOOD IT, AND THAT HE WOULD WAIT TO HEAR FROM US FURTHER. THE ADMIRAL THEN WENT ON TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THAT HE AND HIS NAVY PUT ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES NAVY. HE SAID THAT THESE RELATIONS WERE TRADITIONAL AS WELL AS LOGICAL IN VIEW OF OUR RESPECTIVE GEOGRAPHIC POSITIONS. THE MATTER OF SHIPS WAS SECONDARY: IF EN NEEDS WERE NOT MET BY THE UNITED STATES THEY WOULD REGRET IT BUT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. HE BRIEFLY MENTIONED TRADITIONAL USN/EN COOPERATION, ALLUDING ONLY IN PASSING AND IN A SLIGHTLY DEPRECATORY WAY TO THE FISHING PROBLEM, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "SOLVED". THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT IF THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT SUPPLY THE ECUADOREAN NAVY'S NEEDS THEN HE WOULD HAVE RELUCTANTLY TO FULFILL THEM IN EUROPE: THIS POSED LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS AND IT WAS NOT HIS FIRST

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CHOICE, BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED IN THAT WAY.

4. RADM BLOUNT'S SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH RADM VASQUEZ CONCERNED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF USN/EN COOPERATION SUCH AS COOPERATION IN IANTN, HARSAP, HUMBOLDT CURRENT STUDY, AND ARD SUPPORT PROGRAMS.

5. NAVATT ASKED THE ADMIRAL WHETHER HE WAS GOING TO BE

ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NAVAL COMMANDERS CONFERENCE IN MAR DEL PLATA BEGINNING ON MONDAY, BUT THE ADMIRAL REPLIED THAT UNFORTUNATELY A COMMITMENT MADE SOME TWO MONTHS AGO PROHIBITED HIM FROM BEING THERE. NAVATT EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT THE ADMIRAL COULD NOT BE THERE, AND SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE AFFORDED HIM A FINE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND DISCUSS MATTERS WITH ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY, THE CNO DESIGNATE. HE INQUIRED WHETHER HE PLANNED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE, AND RADM VASQUEZ REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION, HOWEVER, ADMIRAL VASQUEZ SAID HE WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE.

6. COMMENT: ADMIRAL VASQUEZ WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY AS WERE THE THREE EN CAPTAINS WHO SAT IN ON THE MEETING. CONTRARY TO MY PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HIM (QUITO 1777), THE EMPHASIS IN THIS MEETING WAS FIRST ON THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF OUR TWO NAVIES AND SECONDARILY ON MEETING THE MATERIEL NEEDS OF THE EN. I OF COURSE TAKE THIS WITH SEVERAL BOULDER-SIZE GRAINS OF SALT. I SUSPECT THAT AFTER HAVING RECEIVED MY MESSAGE THIS MORNING VIA NAVATT, ADMIRAL VASQUEZ DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ AND THE DECISION OR INSTRUCTION WAS TO PLAY IT COOL. THEIR PRIORITIES HAVE NOT CHANGED.

7. THE MEETING WENT FAR BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, IN PART, I AM CERTAIN, BECAUSE OF RADM BLOUNT'S PRESENCE AND THE FACT THAT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WERE UNEQUIVOCAL ON OUR RESOLVE TO BUILD A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH ECUADOR.

8. IN VIEW OF THE WAY THE MEETING WENT, I DO NOT PLAN TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ON THIS SUBJECT.

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9. RECOMMENDATION: I UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT'S ANTIPATHY TO "DEADLINES", BUT I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE

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